

REMARKS

Claims 1-74 were pending in the current application. Applicants have cancelled claims 4, 10-68 and 71-74 based on the election and further election recited below and have added new claims 75-85.

Election

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-9, 69, and 70, without traverse, and submit that all currently pending claims are now in form for full examination.

Further Election - Species

The Office Action presents six Groups of inventions, and Applicants make the foregoing election based on these six Groups.

The Office Action goes on to further state that in addition to these six Groups of claims, the application contains claims allegedly directed to eight patentably distinct species. Office Action, p. 3. Applicants traverse this further restriction requirement.

Applicants take issue with this apparently arbitrary selection of eight Figures from the present application. Several other designs are presented. It is simply unclear why such a further election is required beyond the six Groups presented. It is particularly unclear from the Office Action why FIGs. 4, 5, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D were isolated and selected as species. Such an arbitrary designation of species places Applicants at a disadvantage of having to correlate all claims contained in Group I specifically with only the embodiments shown in those Figures.

In view of this arbitrary designation of species, Applicants specifically request no further species be identified beyond Species A-H in any subsequent Office Action, as any further designation of species will not assist in examination of the present application but will only complicate the record and place Applicants at a further disadvantage. Further, as noted in M.P.E.P. 809.02(c), any action subsequent to an election of species should

include a complete action on the merits of all claims readable on the elected species. Applicants submit that this “complete action on the merits” does not contemplate any further restriction based on a subsequent recitation of additional species.

Subject to the foregoing, Applicants provisionally elect Species E.

Applicants believe claim 1 is generic to multiple species based on the species restriction presented, but that at a minimum, claim 1 reads on Species E as defined in the Office Action. Applicants further believe several original claims beyond Group I read on Species A-H, and certain original claims may not specifically correlate to the designs presented in FIGs. 4, 5, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, and/or 8D.

Nonetheless, in electing Species E, Applicants submit that claim 1 is generic. Applicants further submit that claims 2-3 and 5-9 and 69 and 70 are not generic and read on Species E. Applicants have cancelled claim 4 herewith.

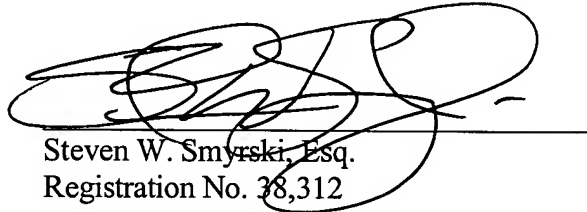
Regarding those claims newly added, Applicants submit that the independent claims 75 and 83 are generic and that the dependent claims 76-82 and 84-85 are not generic and read on Species E.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims of the present application are in condition for search and Examination. Reconsideration of the Restriction requirement and examination and consideration of all of the claims are respectfully requested and allowance of all the claims at an early date is solicited.

Applicants believe that no fees are required with the present response beyond those included herewith. Should it be determined for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, please charge any insufficiency to ensure consideration and allowance of this matter to Deposit Account 502026.

Respectfully submitted,



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